

# **City of Newport, OR**

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **Herbicide Policy**

**November 2011**

#### **Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this policy is to minimize the use of herbicides on City-owned park property and on certain rights of way maintained by City of Newport Department of Parks and Recreation and located within City limits.

#### **Policy**

This policy sets forth guidelines for vegetation management in City parks and in certain rights of way maintained by the City of Newport Parks and Recreation Department and located within the city limits (City Parks Properties). The City is committed to using non-chemical vegetation management strategies such as hand pulling, mowing, trimming, and use of native plants and beneficial insects. Except in areas declared "Herbicide-Free Zones" by this policy, in addition to non-chemical vegetation management strategies, the City may also use certain approved herbicides to control vegetation where such use is indicated and appropriate.

Standards of practice for herbicide application on City Parks Properties will continue to meet or exceed federal and state requirements. Herbicides used on City Parks Properties will be limited to those included in the list of Permitted Herbicide Products included in this policy. All state and federally mandated practices related to herbicide application including but not limited to licensing and reporting requirements will be followed.

Any vegetation management contractors hired to work on City Parks Properties will be required to understand and abide by this policy. Before applying any herbicides on City Parks Properties, a vegetation management contractor will be required to provide the City of Newport, through the Parks and Recreation Department, with: 1) a copy of a the contractor's pesticide applicator's license to perform public vegetation control; 2) the names of the employees who will be applying herbicides; and 3) a report specifying the herbicides to be used, including amounts, concentrations, and spray locations.

#### **Practices**

Except in an emergency, or when non-chemical control methods are non-chemical control methods are not available, impractical, or inappropriate, the City will attempt to control

vegetation using non-chemical methods before using herbicides. Non-chemical control methods may include:

- Prevention, such as: 1) construction and planting techniques that minimize weed growth; 2) mulching; and 3) use of native and other plants to avoid conditions where undesirable plant species can take root and develop into problem conditions.
- Mechanical Techniques, such as: 1) manual removal; 2) string trimming; 3) flame weeding (if appropriate); 4) mowing; 5) aeration and thatching; 6) vacuum removal; and 7) thermal controls.
- Biological Controls, such as use of beneficial insects.
- Implementing programs and informational campaigns to increase the public's tolerance threshold for certain plant species.

#### **"Herbicide-Free Zones"**

Due to the nature of their use and/or users, some areas have been designated "Herbicide-Free Zones" by the City. The following setbacks for herbicide application will apply to all City Park Properties:

- Playgrounds – No herbicides will be applied within 25 feet of the outside perimeter of playgrounds.
- Ball fields- No herbicides will be applied within 25 feet of the outside perimeter of ball fields.
- Dog Parks – No herbicides will be applied inside or within 25 feet of the outside perimeter of dog parks.
- Picnic Areas – No herbicides will be applied within 25 feet of picnic facilities.
- Community Gardens – No herbicides will be applied inside or within 25 feet of the outside perimeter of community gardens.
- Swimming/Wading Pools – No herbicides will be applied within 100 feet of an outdoor pool during the season it is open to the public.
- Gutter Bars – No herbicides will be applied to gutters or within five feet of any catch basin.

Except in "Herbicide-Free Zones," in the event a property is too large for non-chemical control methods to be effective or non-chemical control methods are not available, impractical, or inappropriate, the City may use herbicides from the list of Permitted Herbicide Products to control vegetation on City Parks Property. Herbicide applications must be approved by the Director of Parks and Recreation and the approval must be confirmed in writing by the City Manager.

## **Permitted Herbicide Products**

The following chemicals are listed as products that may be used by the Parks and Recreation Department and independent vegetation management contractors:

- Roundup, glyphosate
- Garland 4, triclopyr

- Speed Zone, carfentrazone – ethyl
- Weed & Feed, 2,4-D miccoprop-p
- Dimension 270-G, Dithiopyr

All products must be used in accordance with manufacturer specifications. All herbicide applications must be documented as required by the State of Oregon. The City shall keep materials safety data sheets (MSDS sheets) on file for all Permitted Herbicide Products.

## **Notification and Warning Signs**

The Parks and Recreation Department will make a good-faith attempt to ensure that citizens, employees, and contractors are adequately informed of all herbicide applications conducted on City Parks Properties. Prominent signs will be posted 24 hours before spraying occurs, and left posted for one week after application. Signage will include:

- date and time of application
- reentry date and time
- trade and chemical names of herbicide applied
- contact information for Parks Department Staff

The Parks and Recreation Department will establish an email notification list of citizens who wish to be notified of herbicide application. Citizens can request to be put on this list.

## **Emergency Application**

In the case of an immediate threat to public health or safety, herbicides may be applied to City Park Properties with less than 24 hour notice, and if necessary, in “Herbicide-Free Zones.” City staff will post required signs and use the email notification system as soon as practicable following an emergency herbicide application.

## **Human Exposure or Illness Contact Information**

The following information will be made available to personnel using herbicides and at the City Manager’s office:

1. If you need medical attention right now, call 9-1-1 and/or the Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222**.
2. Call the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378 to report the pesticide exposures or illnesses. NPIC provides these reports to the EPA under a cooperative agreement. NPIC is open seven days per week from 6:30am - 4:30pm PST.
3. Consider reporting the incident to the product's manufacturer. Manufacturers are required by law to submit reports of adverse effects to the US EPA.”

(National Pesticide Information Center web site, <http://npic.orst.edu/index.html>)